M * O * M

MICRO OF MONMOUTH
P.O.Box 221
Englishtown,NJ 07726

NEWSLETTER

April/May 1986 Vol.6 Issue 3

In This Issue:

Pg.3.....The Computer Parade
Pg.5.....Attention...Tramiel Speaks
Pg.7.....ST Notes
Pg.8.....Norm's Lost and Found Column
Pg.9.....Library Notes
Pg.10.....Mom's Mail Bag

JUNE MEETINGS:

MONDAY, JUNE 2

8:00 PM
Manalapan H.S.
Room E-108

Several demos..games and utilities
Tutorial..questions and answer period

MONDAY, JUNE 16

8:00 PM
Manalapan H.S.
ROOm E-108

Review of latest Atari news, new software and ST software.
Demos and questions answered.

M * O * M

Micro of Monmouth

The Newsletter of the Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc.

The Computer Club of Monmouth,Inc. is a non-profit organization of ATARI computer enthusiasts and users who share a common interest in exchanging information about programming an operation of the ATARI computer system.

The club meets at Manalapan High School at 8:00 PM on the first and third Mondays of each month. The meeting dates are changed or cancelled when a holiday or foul weather causes the school to be closed.

Neither M.O.M. newsletter or the Computer Club of Monmouth,Inc. is affiliated with ATARI Corp., ATARI Inc., Warner Communication or any of their subsidiary companies. All use of the word "ATARI" or the Fuji logo is recognized as a trademark of ATARI Corp.

The M.O.M. newsletter solicits from its members reviews, news, rumors, articles, original programs, classified ads, and any other material of interest for publication. All material submitted for publication should be given to the Editor at the meetings or mailed to the club address.

The material printed in the M.O.M. newsletter may be freely copied. We request that credit be given to its authors and to M.O.M. This newsletter is sent to paid-up members of the club and to other user groups on an exchange basis. User groups interested in exchanging newsletters should write to the club address.

The club supports its own Bulletin Board System that is on-line 24 hours a day with a special section for M.O.M. members. The BBS is open to all types of computers after a name/address verification.

WHO'S WHO AT M * O * M

ELECTED OFFICERS:

President - Ken Kelly
Vice Pres - Mike Carovillano
Secretary - George Sullivan
Prog.Chair - Al Pavlick
Librarian - Thomas Stokes
Doc Library - Norman Wersan
Editor - Irwin Kaplan
MOM's BBS - 201-738-4982

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Frank Fezza - Acting Liaison to the Board of Education
Jimmy Krutzler - BBS Sysop

THE COMPUTER PARADE

Franklin Computer Corp.

A new IBM compatible computer,the PC-8000, was introduced at Comdex/Spring by Franklin.This computer is based on the 8088 chip and comes with 512K RAM,dual 5.25 drives with 360K ,serial and parallel ports, and lists for $995.

Franklin is also expected to introduce a portable computer that is Apple compatible, and list for $499. The new computer is named the Ace 500 and is supposed to run most of the newest Macintosh-likemouse-based Apple II software as well as the older programs.

The computer has 256K of memory,expanddable to 512K, 5 1/4 inch floppy,mouse/joystick port,disk drive port, and a graphics screen dump utility.

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More ST Software

Batteries Included, disclosed that it is switching its development efforts to the Atari ST computers.Batteries Include will offer 11 GEM based applications by the end of 1986.

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DRI Support

Digital Research Inc. the creators of GEM,announced that 125 GEM based programs were under development by 3rd party vendors, for the Atari ST.

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ATARI News

A 20-Mbyte hard disk and a dot matrix printer will soon make their debut from Atari. The Atari hard disk drive SH204 automatucally provides partitioning of memory storage and connects directly into the hard disk port included in all ST computers. The list price is $799.95.

The SMM804 dot matrix graphics printer has a speed of 80cps and features graphics printing in three modes(60,120, and160 dot per inch).Price is $219.95.

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Bad News at Commodore

Commodore International reported a $36,7 million loss in its third quarter ended March 31. The loss included a $22 million write-down of inventory.This bring the nine months total loss to $129.1 million,a year ago there was a $10.1 million profit for the same period.

On another front,it was rumored that Commodore planned to introduce a new model of the Amiga with more memory, double 3.5 disk drive and Mac-like qualities. Bad financials and problems getting third party software, have caused a delay in its' intro.

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Apples,Apples

Apple plans to introduce at least two new computers later this year. The Cortland,256K RAM expandable to 4.25 Mbytes and II compatible at about $1600. The Cortland is aimed at small businesses and educational markets.

Enhancing the Mac family is the planned Jonathan computer. This is a 32 bit pc with 4 Mbytes of RAM and priced at $2500....Also rumored is an MS-DOS machine.(Will Apple finally bite the apple?Ed.)

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MORE JOBS FOR MICROS

Large corporations are looking at micros to handle mainframe and mini applications. Micros in corporations are finding expanding roles because of the relative inexpensive software and ease of setting up. Micros are also being used to solve specific problems and applications. The need for infrequent reporting or specialized programing will not justify the investment in mainframes and minis. However, the micro will with small investment expense and shortened start-up time. And, with extensive software introductions, cheap clones and relatively inexpensive software support, micros look like real winners.

There is one other major contributing factor to the increasing use of micros at corporations - control. Most people feel better about using the micros because they believe they have control over the machine. Not vise versa with minis and mainframes, where there is a feeling of remoteness and the computing power being directed by big brother.

If communications programs linking micros to mainframes become more standardized and simpler, you can expect an even a larger movement by corporations to micros.

Atari is providing some of the "push" to gain micros a foothold in big business. Power without the price! The ST line could be a big attraction to corporations, especially if Atari links to MS-DOS. IBM compatibility is the name of the game, and if Atari can marry the ST to compatibility, it will have a powerful attraction to corporate users.

Irwin Kaplan
May 1986

ATTENTION !!! NEWS FROM THE TOP

It isn't often that we can get insight into the goings on and plans of our favorite company. This is what Tramiel is telling listeners, as published in an article from the May issue of Computer Dealer,titled This Month In Reviw by Mike Alexander.Editor.

TRAMIEL BARNSTORMING FOR 1040ST

Jack Tramiel, the outspoken chairman of Atari Corp., has been pounding the streets lately to drum up support for the company's 520ST and 1040ST personal computers. In recent weeks,Tramiel has been visiting idependent retailers around the country to mend fences following his decision to move the 520 through mass merchandisers and promote the 1040 as a business machine in the specialty retail channel.

Computer Dealer caught up with Tramiel when he stopped in at the Bit Bucket, an independent computer dealer in Newtom, Mass. There Tramiel fielded questions from about 20 or so Atari computer owners interested in hearing what he had to say about the company's plans and future products.

"When I took over from Warner nearly 21 months ago, they were losing $10 million a month,"Tramiel told the gathering."For the first three months of this year we earned $9 million.The religion of Atari works."

The secret,according to Tramiel,is to give people what they want in the form of powerful,low-cost computers that can be continuously updated as technology advances."We are not sitting on our behinds just because you have bought your machines," said Tramiel. "We will never make a product that will be obsolete."

Tramiel acknowledged that most of his business has been in Europe. Atari has sold 200,000 ST's,he said, but only 30 percent of them in the United States. "We sold more PC's in Germany in four months last year than any other personal computer did in the entire year," he claimed.

Part of the reason for the product's success has been a program that placed the 520ST in universities where packaged software was not needed."We're trying to do the same thing here," added Tramiel,"but it has been hard because the universities and companies here like to cover themselves by buying IBM PC's, which is afer for them."

In the works are a number of new products, all of them compatible with the current ST models,said Tramiel. Slated to be introduced during the summer are:

a new graphics chip,
a graphics board capable of 1,000 lines resolution,
a new sound chip,
memory expansion boards,
a multitasking upgrade, and
a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk drive capable of 10 megabyte storage.

Also promised is an expansion box in which to plug in these various devices. Emulator boards also should permit an IBM PC to run Atari ST software or an Atari to run IBM. Pricing on the new products has not been set, added Tramiel.

A CD-ROM disk drive is slated to be introduced by year end. "As many of you know," said Tramiel,"I have supported CD-ROM emotionally and financially, but thus far it has been too expensive. We're working with manufacturers to get the cost of CD-ROM down,but if they can't do it by the end of June we will start building our own. By the fall - at Comdex - we will have one."

A bit further down the road will be ST's capable of running Unix, sais Tramiel. "We signed an agreement with AT&T and we're working on a 32bit machine to run it." Current owners of ST's will also be able to upgrade their machine to run Unix, he added.

Software development for the ST is going well, said Tramiel, claiming 400 programs are available now with 2,000 software developers worlwide currently working on ST software. Tramiel, however, lambasted U.S. software publishers and others for the slow pace of thirdparty product development for the ST."Our strength in Europe is because people cooperate," he asserted,"while for some reason,they can't cooperate here.The industry is basically greedy."

Tramiels said the program to sign up dealers for the 1040ST is going well and that 800 stores have agreed to carry the machine.

Eventually, he added, Atari will move production from Taiwan to plants in Europe and the United States."Using automation, we can manufacture computers as reasonably here as we can in Taiwan.I believe we have to build and buy American. If not, we won't be buying foreign because we won't have any monet," Tramiel said in reference to the growing trade deficit.

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ST NOTES

ANALOG Computing in the July 1986 issue has printed its' Second Guide to ST Software. Included in the list is the developers or distributors name, address, telephone number, program name, type, descriptions and cost. An extensive list for ST owners.

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Let's Write

Mark Williams, of Chicago, Illinois has introduced Let's Write, a professional text processor with a spelling checker and communications utilities for use with the ST line.

The communication program enables the ST to function as a remote terminal to larger computer systems, providing ST users with the ability to transfer text and binary files to another computer via telephone lines.

The program includes a full screen editor, which give the user up to 11 windows to view and change text from multiple files to be edited simultaneously. This feature allows users to define their own keyboard macros to eliminate repetitive typing of frequently used phrases.

In addition, the program has its own formatting language, which make customizing text processing suitable for reports, articles or long memos, as well as smaller projects. List price is $79.95.

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The Shanner SD-2000 Disk Drive

The SD-2000 sytem is a dual 3.5" 1MB, double sided disk drive in a slim silhouette measuring 4.5x 8.5x 2.25 inches. Listing for $429.95, the SD-2000 comes complete with power supply and I/O cable.

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1040's ARE ON THE WAY.....

Atari began shipping the 1040ST with a megabyte of RAM, priced at $999.95. It is the first computer that costs less than a dollar a kilobyte!

Most of the first shipments were soldout and stores were backordered. (With the advent of the 1040 I'm looking forward to more business oriented programs that will make the 1040 competitive with those clones....especially, if we get a black box that can read IBM disks. Editor.)

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There is a growing ST ownership in the club and I am looking for reviews and articles relating to the ST's. Be a contributor. Editor.

NORM'S LOST AND FOUND COLUMN

CONNECTING YOUR 130 XE AND 800 TO A VCR

PURCHASE A 5 PIN DIN PLUG WITH 2 RCA CONNECTIONS AT THE OPPOSITE END AT YOUR FRIENDLY ELECTRONICS STORE. I COULDN'T FIND ONE WITH ONLY 2 RCA PLUGS AND WAS FORCED TO PURCHASE THE 4 RCA PLUG TYPE. I FOUND THE YELLOW AND RED DID NOT WORK, BUT THE WHITE CONNECTED TO THE VIDEO INPUT ON THE BACK OF MY JVC VCR AND THE BLUE TO THE AUDIO. I FOUND A SELECT SWITCH ON THE FRONT OF THE VCR WHICH I SWITCHED TO AUX. (THE 800 HAS THE DIN PLUG ON THE RT. SIDE, the 130XE of the back.
THIS, RECORDED PICTURE AND SOUND FROM THE COMPUTER, WHEN THE VCR IS PUT IN THE RECORD MODE. IF YOU DON'T CONNECT THE AUDIO PLUG FROM THE 5 PIN DIN PLUG BUT USE A CONNECTION FROM YOUR TAPE RECORDER YOU CAN RECORD THE SCREEN AS WELL AS VOICE OR MUSIC FROM A TAPE DECK.

CONNECTING YOUR 520ST TO THE VCR

CONNECTING THE ST TO THE VCR TOOK A BIT OF EXPERIMENTING. I NEEDED TO PURCHASE A SWITCH BOX SIMILAR TO THE ONE SUPPLIED WITH THE ST, BUT HAVING A THREADED "F" TYPE CONNECTOR. THE F CONNECTOR GOES INTO THE ANTENNA "IN" TERMINAL ON THE VCR. PLUG YOUR TV VIDEO CABLE INTO THE TELEVISION PORT ON THE BACK OF THE ST AND INTO THE TV SWITCH BOX.

THE VIDEO IS OFF ON THE VCR AND THE SWITCH IS ON "COMPUTER". ON THE SELECT SWITCH ON THE VCR, USE "SIMULTANEOUS" IF YOU WANT TO RECORD SOUND FROM A TAPE RECORDER WHILE RECORDING THE SCREENS.

THE VCR MUST BE ON CHANNEL 3 (VERY IMPORTANT)

I DON"T KNOW IF THIS IS RECOMMENDED BUT THE COLOR MONITOR WAS ON WHILE I WAS VIEWING THE SAME PICTURE ON THE TV SET. I PLUGGED THE TAPE PLAYER INTO THE AUDIO INPUT ON THE BACK OF THE VCR..

WHAT IS STRANGE ABOUT THIS SETUP IS THE VIDEO GOES IN VIA THE ANTENNA AND THE AUDIO VIA THE INPUT USED ABOVE WITH THE 130XE.

MOM'S DISK NO. 68

EXPRESS.SYS - EXPRESS 1030 FULL FEATURED TERMINAL PROGRAM FOR THE 1030 AND XM301 MODEMS

EXPRES.DOC - ORIGINAL DOCUMENTATION FOR VER 1.0

EXPRS2.DOC - DOCUMENTATION UPDATE FOR VER 2.0

EXPR21.DOC - DOCUMENTATION UPDATE FOR VER 2.1

MOM'S DISK NO. 69
AMS PLAYER

ALLEYCAT, CIRCA1980, BIRTHDAY, EDGE17, EVERYBRE, RAFFING, HAPTBRE2

MOM'S DISK NO. 70
AMS PLAYER

AFTMIDNT, BILLJEAN, HRTNSOUL, ISLANDS, LONGER, SNDMYLOV, SUNRISE, THRILLER, WILDFIRE, YESTRDAY

MOM'S DISK NO. 71
KOALA PICTURE SHOW

KOALASHO.BAS

ANALOG24.PIC	TIGER .PIC	UNICORN .PIC	STAGE .PIC
HORSE .PIC	GADGET .PIC	KHAN .PIC	ELEPHANT.PIC
STARTREK.PIC	MOUNTAIN.PIC	CHRISMAS.PIC	SNOWMAN .PIC
DAUNTLES.PIC	FOX .PIC	SKIER .PIC	GHSTBUST.PIC
CHARBRWN.PIC	MOONSET .PIC	INDIJONS.PIC	DONKONG .PIC
LADY .PIC	SPACE .PIC		

MOM'S DISK NO. 72
KOALA PICTURE SHOW

KOALASHO.BAS

POPEYE .PIC	HAGAR .PIC	CAT .PIC	SATURN .PIC
SPOCKII .PIC	BWINK .PIC	DRDOOM .PIC	HULLDOWN.PIC
MUSKY .PIC	STORMTRP.PIC	NEVILLE .PIC	KRUGE .PIC
KITTY .PIC	POUS .PIC	SMURF .PIC	SNOOPY .PIC
KLINGON .PIC	SPYVSPY .PIC	STARWARS.PIC	SKULL .PIC
PUPPIES .PIC	GRAVES .PIC	DESERT .PIC	MTV .PIC

MOM'S MAIL BAG

MOM has received the first issue of ATARI USER GROUP NEWS from ATARI'S new user group coordinator, Sandi Austin. The following are some highlights. the complete ATARI USER GROUP NEWS will be available from the documentation library.

1040ST

On the week of Feb. 24,1986 the first shipments of 1040ST computers began shipping to dealers in the USA. The first shipment was an instant sell out. See ATARI USER GROUP NEWS for a recap of the new features of the 1040ST.

XM301 MODEM

When designing the ATARI XM301 modem, we knew it would be popular, but we never thought it would be this popular. It has been hard to keep building them fast enough to keep up with the demand.

The modem is 300 baud with auto-dial and auto-answer. It can tone dial or pulse dial, and it uses the tv or monitor audio so the user can hear busy signals or wrong numbers. There is no power supply required for the unit, which draws power from the computer. A powerful terminal program is provided on disk. In the ATARI tradition of value, this modem retails for only $49.95.

NEW PRODUCTS DUE

Space is the theme for ATARI software this month. Two best-sellers are being released from ATARI software.

The first is the long-awaited sequel to ATARI'S classic Star Raiders: "STAR RAIDERS II" (DX5084). This game is highlighted by spectacular graphics and much more sophisticated game strategy. Players attack enemy star bases as well as defending their own. A unique computer-assisted navigation system lends a note of realism. Great new graphics touches include a dramatic hyperspace jump sequence.

The second is the "ATARI PLANETARIUM", right on the heels of Halley's Comet fever. This is a fascinating program that puts the sky into the computer. (DX5803) about $34.95

A new printer joins the ATARI family this month. The XMM801 replaces the old 1025 as a dot matrix printer. This printer was written up in the April/May 1985 issue of ATARI EXPLORER, for those of you needing more information. The suggested retail is an amazing $229.95. Some of the other items covered in detail were: MIDITRACK III-MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DIGITAL INTERFACE, from Hybrid Arts. TEACHER'S PET-a complete grading program, available from Someplace

Special Software, 11 Woodland DR. Troy, Pa. 16947. COMPUTEREYES-computer graphics, available from Digital Vision,14 Oak St.--Suit 2,Needham, MA. 09192, or phone (617-444-9040 or 617-449-7160). ENHANCED RACING HANDICAPPING PROGRAM PACKAGE, retails for $49.95 and comes from Software Exchange, 2681 Pererboro Rd.,PO Box 5382,W. Bloomfield, MI. 48033 or phone 313-626-7280.

ATARIWRITER PLUS ALERT

In the haste to produce enough to keep up with demand, a glitch occurred in the production line for diskettes. Consequentally, a small number of dictionary disks went out with a garbled area in the portion of the alphabet between "bloomers" and "bubbles".

If a user discovers a problem with their dictionary disk, we have set up a painless procedure for them. Simply send a postcard to Atari telling us they have one of the bad disks and we will send them a new one. They don't even have to return the original.

Write to: Atari Customer Relations,1196 Borregas Ave.,Sunnyvale, CA. 94086,Attn: AtariWriter Plus Dictionary.

Some of the other Items covered are as follows:

BYTE MAGAZINE HAILS 1040ST

COMDEX BOOTH PREVIEW

ATARI HARD DISK LAUNCHED AT COMDEX

WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE REPORT

See the NEWSLETTER for a host of other information from ATARI.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM THE JUNE 1986 ISSUE OF ANTIC.

OKIMATE PAPER

I was unhappy about the poor printout quality on my Okimate 10 printer untill I found a smooth paper for both color dumps as well as text-Brother brand plain paper. I bought 500 sheets from Consumer's Distribution catalog for only $6.97. The results are even better than Okimate paper, which costs $9.95 for 250 sheets.

Vincent Tan

PERCOM REPAIRS

In response to a number of queries from readers seeking repairs for their Percom disk drives, ANTIC has learned that a nationwide Percom repair contract has been awarded to STS Computers, 1073 W. Broad Street Falls Church, VA. 22046. 703-237-0558, contact STS first for information about repair rate and shipping.

ANTIC ED

SUMMITED BY
MIKE CAROVILLANO

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc.

(Dues are $18.00/year/individual or family)

Name_____Phone_____

Street_____

City_____State____Zip Code_____

Hardware Owned

_____

System Use

(games, programming, Etc.)_____

I can help with

_____

Send to M.O.M.
P.O.Box 221
Englishtown, NJ 07726